Yelena's New Bike

When Yelena's uncle delivered the shiny red bike, Yelena clapped her hands and jumped around. "Finally," she shouted, "I can ride a bike." Her uncle just laughed and gave her a hug before he drove away.

"Now, Yelena," said her father, "it takes more than having a bike to be able to ride it."

Yelena didn't hear him, though. She was busy strapping on her new helmet and wheeling the bike onto the sidewalk. "All right, Yelena," said her mother, taking hold of the bike's smooth black seat. "I'll hold it steady for you."

Eagerly, Yelena climbed onto the bike. They started down the block. Halfway to the end, Yelena called, "Let go, Mom. I want to do it myself." Her mother let go. For just a moment, the girl pedaled slowly. Then the bike wobbled, the tires swerved, and she landed in a heap. "I'll never get the hang of this!" She shook her head sadly as her mother came to help her up.

"Don't be silly, Yelena," said her mother. "No one learns to ride a bike without collecting a few bumps and scrapes." Yelena looked down at her own scraped knees, then rubbed her sore hands together.

"You mean I need more practice?" she asked. With a sigh, she climbed carefully back onto the bike. Her parents took turns helping her ride to the end of the block and back. Yelena gritted her teeth and ignored the older kids who kept riding quickly by. No one was hanging onto the back of their bikes.

After an hour, Yelena and her parents stopped for the day. Yelena took off her helmet and said, "I don't feel quite so shaky anymore. Maybe tomorrow I can ride all by myself." Her eyes started to sparkle again.

"You can certainly give it a try," agreed her father. "What will you do if you fall again, though?"

Yelena grinned at her parents. "Practice more," they all said together.

GO

19 Where does this story take place?

- **A** Outside Yelena's house
- **B** At a bicycle store
- **C** In a park
- **D** At Yelena's school

20 This is the story of a girl who —

- **A** meets some new friends
- **B** tells her parents a secret
- **C** learns to do something new
- **D** makes a difficult choice

21 How did Yelena get her new bike?

- **A** She picked it out at the store.
- **B** Her uncle brought it to her.
- **C** She borrowed it from older kids.
- **D** Her parents bought it for her.

22 Which words in the story show that Yelena is feeling confident about riding by herself?

- **A** ... grinned at her parents.
- **B** With a sigh ...
- **C** ... gritted her teeth ...
- **D** ... eyes started to sparkle ...

23 What did Yelena find out?

- **A** Having fun is important.
- **B** Gifts can be a surprise.
- **C** You never forget how to ride a bike.
- **D** Practice is how you learn new things.

24 What will probably happen next?

- **A** Yelena will give her bike away.
- **B** Yelena will learn to ride her bike.
- **C** Yelena's parents will stop helping her.
- **D** Yelena will make friends with the older kids.

GO

LIVEWORKSHEETS